GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1529
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
IRRIGATED/NON-IRRIGATED LAND
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated, Non-irrigated and waste land in the field of Agriculture in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether any coordination between Irrigation Department of States and Centre withAgricultural Ministry is to have a definite mechanism to evaluate the programme of irrigated agricultural zone;

(c) if so, whether any expertise of Israel Government in this regard have been consulted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a): The total irrigated, non-irrigated and cultural waste-lands in the field of agriculture in the country during the years from 1994-95 to 1996-97 are as under:-

(Area in Million hectares)

Year	Irrigated land	Unirrigated Land	Culturable waste land
1994-95	53.0	90.0	14.3
1995-96	53.4	88.8	14.1
1996-97	55.1	87.7	14.0

(b): Cooperating Centres of Water Management Project working under ICAR (11centres) have direct linkages with the State Irrigation Department for conducting on farm water management research and demonstration under actual farming conditions in different States. These research and demonstration programmes help to disseminate the irrigation and agriculture research technology for improving water use efficiency and agricultural productivity. Similar programmes on agricultural drainage and reclamation of salt affected soils are also under operation in collaboration with the State irrigation departments. A Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources in 23 States and 2 Union Territories.The programme aims at reducing the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised and optimizing the agricultural productivity and production from irrigated lands in a coordinated manner on a sustainable basis. The programme endeavours to implement/propagate all available technologies for scientific management of land, water and crop for sustainable optimum agricultural production. The integration of various activities be achieved through multi-disciplinary teams under a Command Area Development Authority headed by an administrator/Commissioner. At present the programme covers 228 irrigation projects with a culturable command area of 22.27 million hectare.

(c): Yes, Sir. Expertise of Israel Government is being obtained by ICAR and State Agricultural Universities.

(d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has several means of cooperation with the Israel Government for obtaining expertise in the field of water management (micro irrigation and protected agriculture):
(i) Training of the Indian Scientists at Israel,
(ii) Sending of Indian teams to study the water management research and development programme specially Micro Irrigations System in Israel and their follow up action in India and
(iii) A collaborative programme on Micro Irrigation under protective conditions between the Government of India and Government of Israel has been established at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi for the benefit of Indian Scientists and farmers.